Forces in J and K during 1999 and 78 terrorists have been killed during January 2000.

Terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir

665. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after the recent Kargil conflict, Pakistan has been opening new areas on the LoC and the international border to step up militancy and cross border terrorism in the State of Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) There has been continued efforts on the part of Pak ISI and pro-Pak militant outfits to induct more mercenaries from across the border into J&K with a view to carrying out terrorist activities. [It is difficult to precisely ascertain the exact level of infiltration.] With a view to tackling the problem of terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir, the Government has adopted a multi-pronged approach which includes, inter-alia, strengthening the border management, neutralising plans of the militants by pro-active action against them in the hinterland, gearing up intelligence machinery, greater functional integration through an institutional framework of Operations Groups and Intelligence Groups of the UHQ at all levels, improved technology, weapons and equipments for Security Forces.

Steps are being taken to flush out militants and curb militant activities including closer vigil on the border, establishment of more naka parties in depth areas to check infiltration/exfiltration, more pickets, intensive patrolling and extensive cordon and search operations.

Bangladeshis in India

†666. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of foreign nationals are living in India illegally and majority of them are Bangladeshis;

(b) if so, the number thereof and the measures being taken to repatriate them and to deny authorised civil facilities; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) by when it will be possible to stop illegal immigration and to repatriate them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is difficult to make a realistic estimate of the number of illegal immigrants from Bangladesh because they enter surreptitiously and are able to mingle easily with the local population due to ethnic and linguistic similarities.

A series of measures have been taken by the Government to curb the problem of infiltration into India. These include, *inter alia*, construction of border roads, border fencing, raising of additional battalions of Border Security Force, reduction of gaps between Border Outposts, intensification of patrolling both on the land and the riverine border, increase in the number of outpost towers, provision of surveillance equipments including night vision devices, etc. The matter has also been taken up with the Government of Bangladesh at various level from time to time. There are standing instructions to the State Government and Union Territory Administration to detect and deport foreigners staying illgally. It is not possible to deny minimum civil facilities to those identified as foreigners till they are deported.

(c) Detection and deportation of foreign nationals staying in India is a continuous ongoing process.

Meeting of Indo-Nepal JWG

667. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any meetings of the Indo-Nepal Joint Working Group (JWG) were recently held in New Delhi on border management and effective sharing of intelligence between the two countries as well as review of the adequacy of the existing arrangements for exchange of information on criminal and terrorist activities; and

(b) if so, the details of discussion with outcome thereof particularly for manning important checkposts along the 1,751 Kms. Indo- Nepalese border as well as on 'Study Report' on security measures available at Kathmandu's Tribhuvan Airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) three meetings of the Indo-Nepal Joint